

# Fire Department.

## A Mother's Love.

The tenderest illustrations of Divine love are drawn from the well-known and almost universal affection of parents for their offspring. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" In the instance given below by the Edinburgh Witness, the strength of maternal love is most touching exhibited, and by the comparison a clearer conception is given of the power and love-suffering of God's love. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." While the sinner is still far from God, his grace pursues, converts, and saves the wanderer.

In the Highlands of Scotland, a poor widow found herself unable to pay the rent of her small cottage, and the agent of the landlord threatened to dispossess her. A kinsman who lived at some distance had promised to assist her, and she set out for his residence, carrying on her back her only child, a boy about two years old.

The morning in which she left her home, gave promise of a lovely day. But before noon the heavens were darkened by a gathering storm. It was in the middle of May, and the fall of snow on that day, so unusual both for its season and its severity, is yet remembered in the region as "the great May storm."

The severity of the storm overtook the lone traveler in a wild mountain pass, ten miles from her home. She knew that a mile beyond it there was a house where she would find shelter; but whenever she attempted to face the blast which was rushing through the gorge, all hopes failed of proceeding in that direction.

After wandering for some time among the huge fragments of granite which skirted the base of the overhanging precipices, she found a sheltered nook under a ledge of rock, where she crouched, pressing her child to her trembling bosom. The storm continued to rage, and it became bitterly cold. All she thought of was the protection of her child. She wrapped him in her shawl, which was thin and worn. As night came on, she stripped off almost all her own clothing and wrapped it around the child, whom at last, in despair, she put in a deep crevice of the rock among some dried heather and fern. Covering his face with tears and kisses, she left him in a soft sleep, and rushed into the snow-drift, resolved to find assistance for him or perish in the attempt.

That night of storm was succeeded by a peaceful morning. The people of the village, fearing that she could not have reached her destination, set out in a body to search for her. They reached the pass, and at its entrance they found the widow dead, her arms stretched forth as if imploring assistance. Before noon the cries of the child guided them to its hiding-place, where all the story of the mother's love was revealed.

Fifty years later, an aged minister was preaching in a distant city on the love of Christ, and in illustrating the nature of the "love which seeketh not her own," he told the story of the Highland widow, whom he had known in his boyhood. Some time afterward, a message was brought to him from a man supposed to be dying, who greatly desired to see him. The request was speedily complied with. The sick man seized him by the hand, and gazing intently in his face, said, "You do not know me, but I know you, and knew your father before you. I have been a wanderer in many lands, and have fought and bled for my country. I came to this town a few weeks ago in bad health, and was providentially led to the place where you were preaching. I heard you tell the story of the widow and her son." Here the voice of the old soldier faltered, but recovering himself for a moment he cried, "I am that son!" and burst into a flood of tears.

"Yes," he continued when he had regained his composure, "I am that son! Well might you ask what a heart would mine have been in such a mother's love had been forgotten by me. I never forgot her, and my last desire was to lay my bones beside hers in the old church yard among the hills. But what covers me with shame is, that until now I never saw the love of the Saviour in giving himself for poor sinners." With deep emotion, he added, "It was God made me tell that story. Praise to his holy name, my mother has not died in vain, and the prayer she offered for me has been answered. The story of her love has been used by the Holy Spirit in leading me to see the love of Christ. I see it, I believe it; I have found refuge in my old age as in my childhood, in the clasp of the rock; but it is the Rock of Ages!" And clapping his hands, he repeated a woman's prayer, "O God, a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee!" He lived for some years a devoted disciple of the Lord Jesus, and at length died rejoicing in the same precious Lord.

# The Just Measure of a Man.

Society is full of failures that need never have been made; full of men who have never succeeded when they might have, and should have succeeded; full of women who, in the first of their days did nothing but eat and sleep and drink, and in the last half have done nothing but weep and wail, and in the last half have done nothing but weep and wail.

The world is full, we say, of such people, full of men in every trade and profession who do not amount to anything, and of girls and women without any trade or profession who have no desire to amount to anything; and we do not speak irreverently, and we trust not without due charity, without making due allowance to the inevitable in life, when we say that [God and] thoughtful men are weary of their presence. Every body ought to improve on his father, every girl grow into a nobler, gentler, more self-denying woman, more than the mother. No reproduction of former type will give the world the perfect type. We know not where the millennium is, as measured by distance of time, but we do know, and so do you all, that it is a great way off as measured by human growth and expansion. We have no such men and women yet, as age has had, as shall stand on earth in that age of peace that will not come until men are worthy of it.

## Farm and Household.

### The Farmers and Large or Small Crops.

Some observations in the Gazette on the inflation of the crops as being the kind of inflation that is needed, drew from several farmers letters remonstrating against this, and arguing that the less the farmers raised the higher the price would get, so that they would receive as much for a small crop as a large, and thereby would save a great deal of work. This is a strange doctrine. Even if it were true the natural desire of man to get on in the world would lead everyone to raise full crops himself, while preaching the doctrine to his neighbors. But it can easily be shown that it is not true, and that the farmer who reduces his production will reduce his income in proportion.

The production of the staple farm crops is not limited to any country or any section thereof; it is spread over the world. Should our farmers reduce their crops, the rest of the world would not, and it would profit for their self sacrifice. The United States produce a large surplus of breadstuffs. These require a foreign market, and the demand made by the foreign market governs the price in this country. Perhaps there are some that think Europe, or at least Great Britain, dependent on the United States for food, and therefore that we can force her to our prices by restricting our production. But Great Britain draws only a fractional part of her breadstuffs from the United States, and if we should reduce our supply, other countries would profit by our loss.

We have before us an official document of the British government, giving the statistics of the trade of the United Kingdom for a series of years up to 1871. From this it appears that the whole amount of wheat, and of flour reduced to its equivalent in wheat, imported into the Kingdom in 1871 was 44,362,227 cwt. Of this only 15,625,331 cwt. came from the United States. Russia alone sent as much, being 15,629,943 cwt. The other sources, in the order of their importance, are Germany, British North America, Egypt, the Austrian provinces, Chili, Denmark, France, Sweden, Spain, Holland, and 722,947 cwt. from other countries not named.

Of barley the imports were 8,569,013 cwt., of which the United States furnished but 60,172 cwt.; of oats 10,912,204 cwt., of which the United States furnished but 20,010 cwt.

Nor does the United States hold the monopoly of the supply of maize. The imports were 16,820,223 cwt., of which the United States furnished 7,319,246 cwt. Of the lesser articles such as rye, peas, beans, and buckwheat, the proportion furnished by the United States is small.

By this it will be seen that in order that the policy of reducing production to raise prices may be successful, the agreement must be made with all these countries, or at least with that one which furnishes to Great Britain as much of her bread as we do, and the other countries from which important portions of her supplies come. Unless this can be secured, all curtailing of production by our farmers will only curtail their own income. This statement of the numerous and vast sources of supply of the country, whose market governs the market price of our breadstuffs, would seem to be sufficient to put to rest any theory that our farmers may gain by reducing their products.

There are but two products of the United States to which there can be any reasonable probability that a shortening of production will be made up by an increase in price. These are cotton and petroleum. In these it will work only temporarily or at intervals. The shortening of the cotton product by the war stimulated the production in other parts of the world, which impaired permanently the monopoly the United States had held. The source of petroleum seems to be a more absolute monopoly of a small section; but if the attempts to restrict production were successful, so as to greatly raise the price, it is likely that substitutes would be resorted to, and thus the consumption permanently reduced.

Energy and intelligence in farming will bring proportionate rewards. Farmers can do much to

# protect themselves against temporary depression of particular crops by a varied culture; but it is certain that the more they produce the better will be their condition.—Cincinnati Gazette.

## Corn and Cut Worms.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says:—Your valuable preventive—one and one-half pounds of copperas to one bushel of corn—I tried as follows, with great ease, cheapness and certainty, and most marked and astonishing results to all my hands. I pulverized two pounds of copperas at night, and the next morning put in a sack, and I put one and one-half bushels of corn in a separate vessel at night. After soaking twelve hours I poured off the water from the corn into a tub; I then added as much water as will cover the corn, and add to it the copperas water, and thoroughly mix and pour over the corn, and let it remain in copperas water twelve hours; I then poured off the copperas water from the corn and rolled the seed corn in J. T. Excelsior or plaster; and if early for planting I open deep furrows, say four or five inches, and cover light with corn cover; but if late I cover deeper. I tried this experiment on a sod field of three years standing, plowed in March and April of 1871. I ploughed with a three-horse plough, seven inches deep on the average; the ground was nicely pulverized. Planted on the 1st of May, three and one-half by three and one-half each way. Two days planting (ten acres). I dampened the corn and rolled it in the plaster. The third day I had the corn prepared with copperas and ready to plant.

I planted the corn across a forty-acre field, by the side of the second day's planting, and there were between two and four days planting; all treated alike, except the application of copperas on the two bushels of seed corn. To the surprise and satisfaction of myself and hands, it came up regular, green and vigorous, and grew rapidly. I soon found it necessary to replant. I found on examination not a hill cut nor a worm to be found where the copperas was used, and the entire field, except the two bushels of seed thus treated, was cut from two to three hills out of five, and I often found from one to fifteen cut worms in a hill. I was so worried I could not determine which plan was the best, replant, plough and plant over, or check off between rows. I have heard of such being done, but never tried it. I have ordered 150 pounds, and I am urging all my friends to give it a trial. One bushel of corn will plant five acres, and one and one-half lbs. of copperas will prepare the bushel of corn. Copperas can be bought in quantities to suit farmers at six or seven cents per lb. It would cost 1.2 cents per acre. It is cheap, simple and certain with me and others who tried it last year, and I regard this a valuable preventive.

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